

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL PARK IN ISRAEL

FOR CHARGE

1. SUMMARY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ASAP ON PROPOSAL THAT BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATOR WARNER ACCEPT INVITATION FROM JEWISH NATIONAL FUND TO MAKE WELL PUBLICIZED FIVE-DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL STARTING ON OR ABOUT JUNE 21 TO INSPECT FUND'S BICENTENNIAL PROJECT OF A PARK IN BEIT SHEMESH AREA, EVIDENTLY ALL INSIDE ISRAEL PROPER, WHICH US OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED THIS PAST WINTER. AS YOU KNOW, MUCH OF FUND'S LAND RECLAMATION ACTIVITY HAS BEEN IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, AND SOME OF FUND'S PUBLICATIONS IN US SHOW WEST BANK LABELLED AS PART OF ISRAEL. IF WARNER ACCEPTS, WE WOULD EXPECT EMBASSY TO ENSURE THAT VISIT AND ITS PUBLICITY BE KEPT IN BICENTENNIAL CONTEXT AND CONFIDENTIAL

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TO MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF ITS BEING USED TO PROMOTE FUND ACTIVITIES IN GENERAL AND THOSE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN PARTICULAR. END SUMMARY.

2. JOHN WARNER (FORMER NAVY SECRETARY), ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL ADMINISTRATION (ARBA), WHICH OVERSEES ALL EVENTS RELATING TO BICENTENNIAL, RECEIVED LETTER FROM JEWISH NATIONAL FUND IN NEW YORK TO

VISIT ISRAEL, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS JUNE 21, TO QUOTE INSPECT THE SITE OF THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL PARK IN ISRAEL AND TO PARTICIPATE IN A JNF FILM DEDICATION TO OUR BICENTENNIAL PROJECT UNQUOTE. THIS IS TO SOLICIT YOUR PERSONAL VIEWS AS TO WHETHER WARNER SHOULD MAKE VISIT AND, IF SO, HOW IT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

3. ARBA HAS ALREADY ACCORDED THE BICENTENNIAL NATIONAL PARK IN ISRAEL OFFICIAL RECOGNITION QUOTE FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL EFFORT UNQUOTE. THIS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION WAS CONVEYED IN A LETTER FROM WARNER TO JNF EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT ABRAM SALOMON DATED MARCH 12 AND MORE OR LESS MEANS THAT THE US GIVES THIS PARK PROJECT HIGH RECOGNITION AS A SELECT PROJECT BEST COMMEMORATING OUR ANNIVERSARY. ARBA IS SIMILARLY RECOGNIZING PROJECTS IN OTHER NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD ON A SELECT BASIS. AMBASSADOR DINITZ HAS LENT HIS SUPPORT IN A LETTER TO SALOMON WHICH EXPRESSES HIS QUOTE WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT UNQUOTE FOR THE PARK WHICH QUOTE LINKS THE REHABILITATION OF AN IMPORTANT REGION SOUTH-WEST OF JERUSALEM WITH THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION UNQUOTE.

4. FROM THE INFORMATION WE HAVE, THE PARK WILL BE CENTERED AT BEIT SHEMESH AND SERVING THE SURROUNDING NETWORK OF SETTLEMENTS, INCLUDING MAHSIYA, NES HARIM, BAR GIORA, TSUR HADASSAH, MEVO BETAR, MATA AND ZANOACH. THIS PUTS THE PARK IN ISRAEL PROPER.

5. FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF JNF ACTIVITIES IN LAND RECLAMATION AND ROAD BUILDING, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF THEIR ACTIVITY IS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN ADDITION TO ISRAEL
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PROPER. EACH YEAR JNF PUBLISHES IN THE U.S. A FUND-RAISING CALENDAR WHICH, FOR EXAMPLE, IN SOME YEARS HAS SHOWN ENTIRE WEST BANK LABELLED AS ISRAEL. THEREFORE, IN LINE WITH OUR POSITION ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, NO OFFICIAL MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT TO JNF FOR ITS CALENDAR DESPITE REPEATED REQUESTS, TO AVOID APPEARANCE US OFFICIAL SUPPORT OF JNF ACTIVITIES IN AREAS NOT CONSISTENT WITH US POSITION.

6. WARNER HAS MADE BICENTENNIAL APPEARANCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G. POLAND AND FRANCE) WHERE THERE HAS BEEN MAJOR ETHNIC CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED STATES. HE IS DISPOSED TO MAKE VISIT TO ISRAEL FOR JNF PARK PROJECT

BUT WISHES TO ENSURE (AS DO WE) THAT VISIT IS CLEARLY IN
US-ISRAEL BICENTENNIAL CONTEXT AND IS UNDERSTOOD AS SUCH
BY GOI. HE ALSO WISHES GOI TO KNOW THAT THIS WILL BE THE
ONLY VISIT HE CAN MAKE TO ISRAEL SO THAT, IF THEY WISH,

THEY CAN SCHEDULE OTHER BICENTENNIAL EVENTS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE VISIT. IF HE ATTENDS, HE WILL WISH TO HAVE
EMBASSY MEET AND ESCORT HIM, AND HAVE USIS COVERAGE IN
ORDER TO KEEP VISIT IN THE BICENTENNIAL CONTEXT AND
MINIMIZE POSSIBILITY OF ITS BEING USED TO PROMOTE JNF
ACTIVITIES GENERALLY, INCLUDING THOSE IN OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES.

7. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON HIS ATTENDANCE AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE BEFORE ANY FINAL DECISION IS MADE.
WARNER MUST GIVE RESPONSE THIS WEEK. KISSINGER

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